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MARCH 5, 1969

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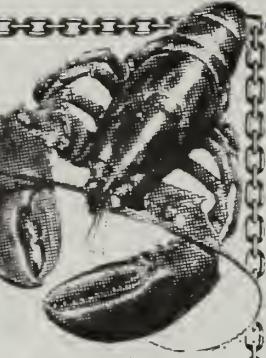
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tain of blowing snow in the storm of Monday.

FORT CATTLEY Bottom

Boys on Barstow Street, Mattapoisett have a wonderful time as they build a massive fort with the raw material that seems to be without end.

STORM SCHEDULED AS USUAL

Practically the only event that hasn't been called off in the past two weeks is the snow storm which rages with only slight pauses. Schools followed their week vacation with a week of no school and started Monday off with a cancellation. The election on Monday was held in a storm of blowing snow. Mattapoisett's snow removal equipment was diverted to Old Hammondtown School to clear the way for voters. This is the year of the big March storm that will be long remembered. There is no doubt now that we can look for March to go out like a lamb.



PUSH IT - PILE IT

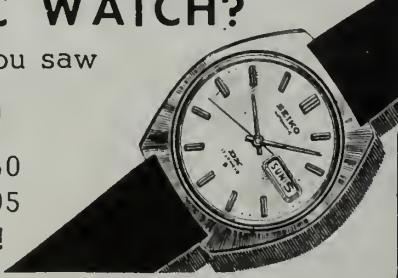
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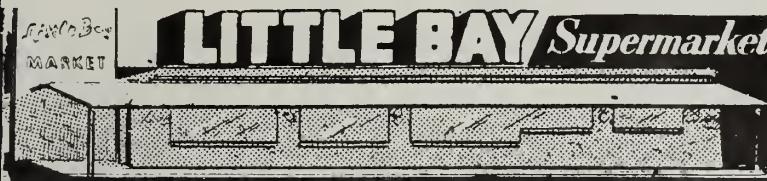
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usual terrific job in keeping the town's streets and roads clear and passable. Working day and night, the men can take great pride in the snow removal job in this series of storms.



SIBERIA?

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Legion's 50th Saluted

LEGION TO CELEBRATE 50th ANNIV.

On Sunday evening, March 9th, at 8:00 P.M. American Legion National Commander William C. Doyle of Vineland, New Jersey, will appear on the nationally televised Ed

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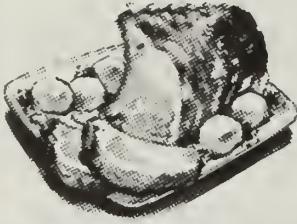
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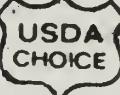
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Sullivan Show. Commander Doyle will present an American Legion 50th anniversary medallion to Mr. Sullivan, a member of the Legion's Entertainment Advisory Committee for the 50th anniversary, for his ef-

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forts on behalf of the Legion.

The American Legion will be immortalized in song when its special 50th anniversary composition, "The American Legion", by Meredith Willson is performed on this show.

Performing to the special composition, written in commemoration of the American Legion's half-century of service to God and Country, will be the Legion's national championship color guard of the Chicago First National Bank Post #985 of Chicago, Illinois, accompanied by the Ray Bloch orchestra. This unit's degree of excellence earned them the honor of posting the colors during the 1968 Democratic national convention in Chicago.

"The American Legion" is a stirring composition set to march tempo, with both words and music by the famed composer, Meredith (The Music Man) Willson.

The announcement of the 50th anniversary event was made by American Legion 50th Anniversary Committee Department chairman, George F. Stitt.

PTC MOVIES

The Mattapoisett Parent Teachers Club will sponsor a movie for children, "Mr. Magoo's Favorite Heroes", plus additional cartoons, on Saturday, March 8th, at the

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Old Hammondtown School, Mattapoisett.
The doors will open at 1:15 P.M. and the
movie will begin at 1:30 P.M.

"Virginia Woolf" Is Great

MARION ART CENTER PLAYERS STAGE
EXCELLENT PRODUCTION OF ALBEE PLAY

Ted Babbitt, Gail Swain, Connie Kennedy and Tim Walsh have created a memorable illusion on the stage of the Marion Art Center. The Friday night audience filled the small theater to capacity. The quartet, on the stage, built their characters so real, their situation so intense, that the response from the spectators was a living thing, as if a wall had been torn away and the events on the stage an intrusion. Part of this was the raw power of Albee's "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" dialogue, but most was the admirable skill of four extremely talented local actors.

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The play begins in the aftermath of a faculty party in a small college community. As the weary, history professor arrives home at two in the morning, he is informed by wife Martha that guests are expected momentarily for a party. Immediately, the peeling process begins as the veneer of the civilized man and woman begin to tear under the verbal flicks of the booze-flexed tongues. Into this charged atmosphere step

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The cast of "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" during rehearsal. Standing are Gail Swain and Ted Babbitt, and sitting are Tim Walsh and Connie Kennedy.

the young, new biology professor and his wife. They come hesitatingly; they know the time; they would rather go home; they are afraid to offend Martha, the daughter of the president of the college, and so they come. They are thrust into the eye of a human hurricane. A momentary calm of a caustic graciousness prevails as the host gathers himself for the anti-party ahead by pouring a round of drinks.

Gail Swain, as Martha, does a super job of developing the part of a middle aged woman stalking and closing upon the young male prey staked out for her conquest. This seduction proceeds under the knowing eye of husband George who has seen the game played many times before and knows the ground rules. Soon all the pretenses and facades of George and Martha crumble as the trumpets of their bitter tongues blow the walls down. Sucked out in the orbit of the storm, the young couple begin to experience the lash and pain as the antagonists turn from each other to drag down

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the guests. Ted Babbitt, as George, explains that the purpose of the game is to tear the skin aside layer by layer, to strike through blood and guts to the bone, to bore through bone to expose the marrow. Martha makes up and changes the rules. George follows the lead and scores points as he can. This love - hate battle fills a need and builds a purpose into lives from which the marrow has been sucked far too often. The brutal, vulgar attacks of George and Martha upon their inner beings seem a necessary replacement for love. The dregs remaining are the verbal flagellation that chases away the despair of defeat and ultimate aloneness.

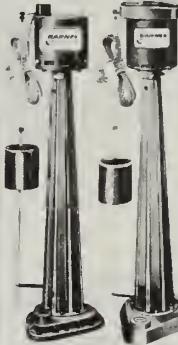
This play shocks. It has vulgar lines. It is a difficult piece of material to develop because the characters of George and Martha are complex and corrupted. The young professor and his wife are the victims of the environment and therefore must be played throttled down. Gail Swain and Ted Bab-

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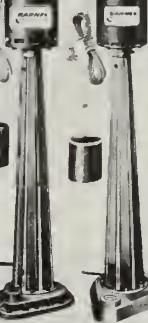
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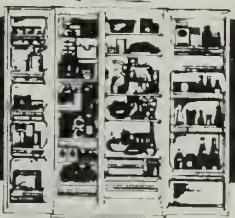
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bitt have created the shattered pieces of Martha and George so that they fit together perfectly and, in the process of fitting the pieces together, they reveal the strains that caused the cracks. Both were believable in every way. At times, the audience reaction was so intense that the silence

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crackled. This sort of involvement is very rarely achieved and is the ultimate tribute to any actors. Tim Walsh was excellent in a key role that was tricky because the character had to be played less defined and weaker than that of the principals. Connie Kennedy, playing the innocent, bemused by unaccustomed amounts of drink and caught in a storm of vicious intensity of which she was hardly aware, was very effective and contributed much to the reality of the play.

Ted Babbitt, who was so great in the recent production of "The Odd Couple", underscores the very great range of his talents as he played the part of George to perfection. George emerged on the stage as much through skillful style as through biting dialogue and was match for the portrayal of Martha by Gail Swain. She was last seen in "The Odd Couple" as the sweet young pick-up from Britain. In "Virginia Woolf", as Martha, she ages twenty-nine years. She played a whole scale of emotion. Tenderness, viciousness, seducer and crumpled companion in hopelessness, she ran the whole route with wonderful ease. The co-stars were so successful that George and Martha, for all their unadmirable traits, still emerged with the complete sympathy of the audience.

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Assisting backstage were Val Campbell, Joan Olsen and Eunice Ashworth, production and properties; Bill Beardsley, setting; Jack Campbell, lighting; Christine Rego, hair styling; Diana Cobbald, wardrobe; Tom Kennedy, posters; Wendy Bidstrup and Merideth Hardina, publicity; and Sandy Prescott, prompter.

Our School Dilemma - Part 1

by THOMAS M. RENAHAN, JR.,
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL
SCIENCE AND CHAIRMAN REPUBLICAN
TOWN COMMITTEE, MATTAPOISETT

We Americans seem to have more than our share of inconsistencies. One example of this is our intense devotion to education and to its improvement, combined with our equally intense unhappiness about paying the bill. It does not help either that the bill keeps rising from year to year. Whether or not the quality of education is rising is hard to tell; by contrast, rising tax bills come across with a clarity which leaves very little room for doubt.

Coming on top of an already considerable tax burden, the proposal by the Old Rochester Regional School Needs Committee for a new Middle School inspires the kind of popularity associated with the Bubonic

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Plague. Yet our enrollment statistics tell a story familiar all across the country; school enrollments at or beyond the capacity of schools to hold them. That something must be done to meet this dilemma should be beyond dispute; the statistics cannot be wished away. Exactly what can be done is a question which is anything but beyond dispute.

Whatever the decision is to be, it is the

WOMAN'S CLUB GROUP MEETINGS

The literature group of the Mattapoisett Woman's Club will meet Tuesday, March 11th, at the home of Mrs. Ralph Ashworth, 34 William Street, South Dartmouth, at 9:30 A.M.. The program will be a review of editorials.

The beginners bridge group will meet Tuesday, March 11th, at 7:30 P.M. at the home of Miss Margaret Donnelly, Fairhaven Road.

The Woman's Club is sponsoring a desert bridge at 12:30 P.M. Thursday, March 13th, at the home of Mrs. Archibald Lammey, Holly Woods.

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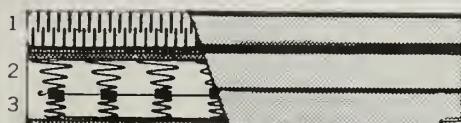
758-2988

758-2587

RT. 6 MARION RD.
MATTAPOISETT

voters who will have to do the deciding. It is important, therefore, that we be well informed about the problem. With this in mind, the Republican Town Committee is asking several interested and knowledgeable citizens in our three towns to record their views in a series of articles. We believe that the Presto Press is ideal for this purpose, and that the Editor's willingness to

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run this series of articles, demonstrates again his great interest in Community Affairs. Our purpose is to promote intelligent and meaningful public discussion, and thereby to clarify the issues facing the voters. Letters from readers are encouraged and may find their way into print.

It should be suggested at the outset that the proposal to extend Regionalization to grades 5 and 6 raises two basic issues.

One is the essentially economic issue on what to do about the overcrowded conditions at the Regional High School, the Rochester Memorial School and the Sippican Elementary School in Marion. The second is the more fundamentally educational issue of the impact of regionalization on children at the 5th and 6th grade level, and thus on the quality of their education. There are some advantages in further regionalization, and there are also some disadvantages.

In any case it is our hope that the subsequent articles in this series will help to clarify these two issues.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE INVITED TO WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

Members of the Hilltop Friendship Circle have been invited to attend the World Day of Prayer service March 7th, at 11 A.M. at the Mattapoisett Congregational Church. The invitation was issued by the Women's Community Guild, sponsors of the annual occasion. Luncheon will be served.

Mon. Thru Thurs. 7 am to 7 pm
Friday 7 am to 8 pm
Sat. & Sun. 7 am to 2 pm
SATURDAY - We will have HOME BAKED BEANS

SUNDAY- Breakfast, Coffee, Lunch
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ANNUAL PINE DERBY HELD

The annual Pinewood Derby by Pack 53, Cub Scouts, was held Sunday afternoon at the Mattapoisett Center School. Grand champions are left to right Edward Lewis, first; Matthew Vangel, second and William Suzan, third. Photo by Edward Lewis.

TIDES

Mar.	High		Low	
	AM	PM	AM	PM
5	8:34	8:52	1:52	2:10
6	9:16	9:34	2:34	2:46
7	9:58	10:16	3:16	3:22
8	10:40	11:10	3:58	4:04
9	11:34	12:04	4:46	4:52
10	12:34	-----	5:46	5:52
11	1:10	1:46	6:52	6:58

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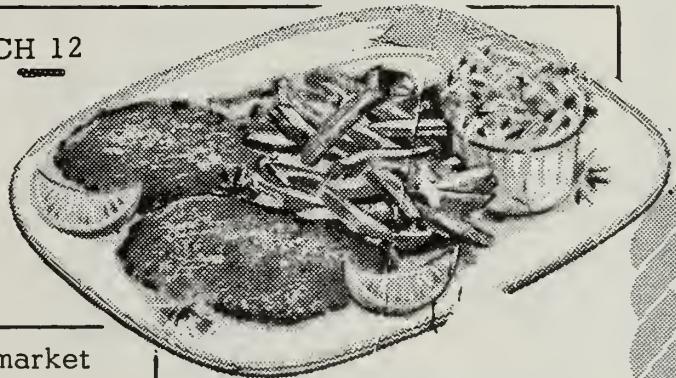
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The Tower of Strength

"HISTORY OF FORT PHOENIX"

by Donald R. Bernard

Part XVI

With the War of 1812 now just a segment of history and the old fortification left to the mercy of the elements, the only provision made by the government was the job of government custodian. This job was awarded to Charles Hathaway, fort overseer. Fort Phoenix stood in silence once again, with only the howl of the wind, the continuous lapping of the tide at the base of the stone sentinel, and occasionally the piercing sound of wheeling gulls. Her mighty cannon were to speak no more.

The "Tower of Strength" was again to be tested, only this time by the challenging elements of nature. For it was on the date of September 29, 1815, the "Great Gale", as it was later to be called, lashed the harbor with severe winds and heavy rains plus the ravaging tides that rose to ten feet above normal. So rapid was the rise of tide that buildings along the waterfront

were completely devoured and strewn for miles. Many of the town's valuable papers and records were lost in that gale. This accounts for the lack of town records to be found prior to the "Great Gale". Loss of

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life in connection with this storm was miraculously but few. The New Bedford-Fairhaven Bridge was also lost in that storm. But despite the constant harrassment sponsored by war and elements, Fairhaven and New Bedford were again able to withstand the ordeal and readjust to the task of breathing life into this young country.

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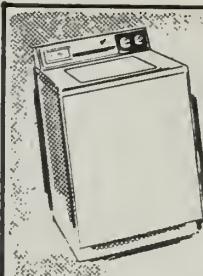
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The years slipped by and the area became rich in the field of progress. The only military company of regulars was a company of light artillery and infantry stationed in New Bedford, available for parades from time to time. In 1822 a regulation uniform for the State militia was adopted. This smart looking uniform consisted of coatees with scarlet colors, scarlet vest, dark blue trousers with broad scarlet stripes edged with gold or yellow worsted lace. Plumes or pom poms were black, tipped with red. This uniform denoted artillery, while their drivers wore white frocks and trousers, black round hats with pom poms, and a yellow metal plate in front, with black sword belts. The infantry wore coatees with white undercloths, the trousers over the boots.

The year 1833 saw the inauguration of a drill team made up of Fairhaven youth called the "Franklin Blues". This group inspired the boys from across the river to form their own company and they called themselves the "Jackson Blues". A rivalry was spawned between these two groups that grew to a strong sense of competitive spirit that even lingers on today. However, these drill teams were short-lived; outgrowing their uniforms, they were soon disbanded, thus ending a short but exciting period for our local youth.

The next year of importance regarding Fort Phoenix was 1841 when the United States government decided that work on the old fortification had to be done. Lieutenant Isaac Stevens was put in charge of the improvements. The cannon that today still

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protrude over the ramparts were placed there during the remodeling transition. These same cannon were made for use in the Mexican War but instead were shipped to Fort Phoenix. These cannon were fired in a 4th of July celebration ceremony in the year 1849, as stated in the New Bedford Mercury of October 17, 1859. On the date of Saturday, May 9, 1863, the headline states: "Attack on Fort Phoenix. Considerable skirmishing in the woods in the vicinity of Fort Phoenix has taken place on Wednesday evening, May 6th. Several stones were thrown at the guard. While on Thursday evening a larger stone passed very near the sentry who immediately fired his gun in the direction from whence it came. Nothing more was heard from the invaders since."

The Fort, during the Civil War, was manned by the home guard made up of 600 local men. They were marched to the Fort in 1861 from New Bedford by fife and drum. Crowds lined the streets and applauded throughout the

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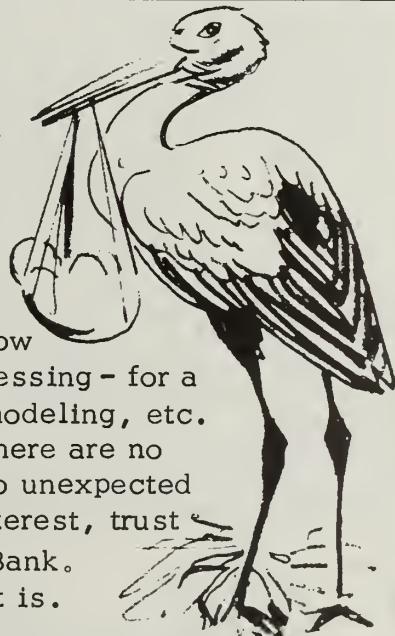
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route. The barracks were renovated and the troops stationed at the Fort kept a watchful eye on all ships approaching the harbor day and night.

The Schooner, "Henry Gibbs", arrived from New York on July 19, 1864, with fifty boxes, each containing three parrot shot for the rifled guns and seven barrels of powder. The year 1865 saw the completion of the present magazine or "hump" as referred to by many visitors to the reservation today. The magazine measured 28 feet in width and 51 feet in length, the interior or inside the magazine is beautifully constructed of brick, with the arched overhead also of brick. This magazine, as we see it, was intended to hold 50,000 pounds of powder.

A major conflagration took place on August 26, 1872, at the fort when the barracks caught fire. The government custodian during that period was Sargent Wetzel, and his wife battled the blaze, but to no avail.

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Sparks from this building caught a building nearby on fire and partially destroyed it before the fire engine from the village arrived.

Another interesting note was that on the morning of August 31, 1874, on board the steamer "Monohansett" was General Ulysses S. Grant, who passed the fort which echoed a 21-gun salute. A firing squad which stood at attention during the salute consisted of Sargent Wetzel, John I. Bryant, Joseph B. Cushing, Field W. Thompson and William H. Bryant.

In 1876, the government fortification in Fairhaven was again placed in an inactive status. The keeper in charge was Sargent Wetzel, a former ordinance officer, who had been retired from active service and was the government custodian. After a very short period of time, he left the reservation and once again the gates were left open to the elements. During the deactivation period, all the ordinance and ammunition was removed, the muskets, which were used by the home guard, were packed in crates and stowed away in the Town Hall. And in the Star, dated 1889, the following article was published: "Muskets for sale - Muskets used by the home guard in the late rebellion are now for sale at the Town Treasurer's office." Signed, John I. Bryant, chairman of Selectman. This ended another phase of history regarding the old fort.

To be continued.

THINK SPRING

"A Breath of Spring" fashion show by Co-burn Brothers of Wareham and sponsored by the Rosary Altar Society of St. Anthony's Church, Mattapoisett, will be presented Wednesday, March 19th, at 8 o'clock P.M. in the auditorium of Old Hammondtown School. The show was postponed from March 5th because of the storm.

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The official weigh-in at the annual Pine-wood Derby held Sunday afternoon. Standing is Don Grace, Webelos Den Leader, and sitting, Jack Brennen, committee chairman. Photo by Edward Lewis.

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EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS AT YWCA

The exhibit of paintings now in the YWCA lobby will continue for another week. They were done by patients in Bridgewater State Institution as part of therapy treatment, as a means of useful expression. The paintings are for sale and information may be obtained at the main desk regarding prices and ordering. Mr. Alden Blake, a correction officer at the Institution, is in charge of the display.

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commented favorably on Mr. Keith's suggestion.

In general, the sanctuaries legislation asks for a study to determine the most appropriate and beneficial uses of seaward areas.

The Bill features two other provisions. The first calls for a two-year moratorium on all off-shore industrial exploration. The second could save areas such as Georges Bank and Plum Island for sport and commercial fishing, recreation, wildlife conservation, scientific research and their distinctive scenic beauty.

"It's unfortunate that it takes a tragedy like the Santa Barbara oil spill to make us sit down and reappraise the value of our priceless natural beauty." Mr. Keith said.

"We've had time for thought. The people of my District, and those who live in coastal areas around the nation, deserve some action."

Noting that the Russians virtually cleaned out a rich fishing bank near Cape Cod three years ago and local fishermen still have not been able to recover, the Congressman warned, "If there's an oil disaster on top of this, it might ruin local fishing for a decade."

The Congressman then added for the record the fact that by far the largest amount of edible fish consumed in United States markets comes from Georges Bank, which also represents 12% of the world's fish catch.

Concluding his remarks, Mr. Keith cited alarming statistics showing the threat of ocean pollution has become acute. For example, the Department of the Interior now confirms that over 7,000 off-shore wells have been dug.

"Somebody recently figured out that if all the world's tankers were simultaneously loaded to capacity and at sea," Mr. Keith reported, "there would be more than 900,000,000 barrels of oil afloat."

Protecting Our Coasts

KEITH PROPOSES MARINE SANCTUARIES

Testifying before the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, Congressman Hastings Keith (R-Mass) last week called for a rational plan to develop the nation's marine resources and protect the natural beauty of coastal areas.

"Oil and water have never mixed," Mr. Keith declared, "so we had better find a way for them to co-exist."

Keith, a long-time champion of strong conservation legislation, was called as the lead-off witness in hearings on a bill he co-sponsored to amend the Oil Pollution Act, 1924, to include stiff penalties for those responsible for off-shore pollution.

The Congressman's appearance was highlighted by his proposal for Marine Sanctuaries. Several members of the Committee



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"It's time that exploration of our ocean frontiers received the same attention as outer space now gets. Scientists are already suggesting that the survival of mankind may well depend upon our ability to sensibly use the resources of the sea."

YWCA

The public is urged to hear "Job Horizons in New Bedford" to be discussed Thursday night, March 6th, at 7:30 P.M., by panel members representing organizations maintaining programs in the city that are of concern to all citizens.

John Milan, executive director, Community Council of Greater New Bedford, will act as moderator for the panel. Panel members include Mr. Joaquim Baptista, assistant director, Concentrated Employment Program; Mr. Adalbarto Nereu, director, Mainstream; Mr. Samuel S. Brooker, director, CREATE; Mr. Francis King, director, Neighborhood Youth Corps; Mr. William Lapre, supervising manager, Employment Service Division of Employment Security; Mr. Ernest R. Smith, director, Opportunity Center of Greater New Bedford; and Mrs. Ellen L. Dubrieul, coordinator, Senior Aide Program.

These participants will describe the program and activities of their organization, and answer questions asked from the audience. This meeting will give unusual opportunity for interested people to learn what is being accomplished by these programs in the area.

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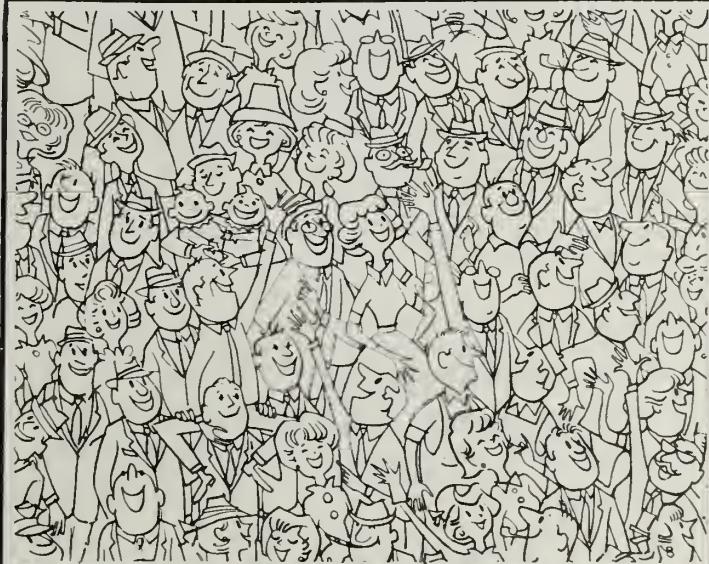
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Mr. Norman A. Bergeron will be the speaker for the Weekly Luncheon Social, March 12th. Mr. Bergeron will discuss corsages for Easter, emphasizing colors that should be chosen to wear with particular outfits. Also, the choice of arrangements for the Easter table that may be made from the flowers that may be available at the time. Specimens of corsages and centerpieces



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will be on display, and some will be made at the program time.

Mr. Bergeron belongs to International Service and is a member of New England Florists Association.

The luncheon is open to all women and they are cordially invited to come. Mr. Bergeron will speak at 12:15 and 1:15. WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

The annual World Day of Prayer service for 1969 will be held this Friday at 11 A.M. at the Mattapoisett Congregational Church, sponsored by the Women's Community Guild. The theme of the service for this year is

BOARD OF APPEALS, MATTAPoisETT, MASSACHUSETTS
PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on the Petition of LESTER AND ANNA PALESTINE of Scarsdale, New York for a variance of 20 feet from the rear set back requirement pursuant to the provisions of Section VII, paragraph B 3 of the Zoning By-Law. Property is shown as LOTS 184, 185, 186, 187, 190 and 191 of BRANT BEACH PLOT of the Mattapoisett Assessor's Records and is located on OCEAN VIEW and CEDAR POINT AVENUES.

The hearing will be held in the VOTING ROOM in the TOWN HALL on THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 1969 at 7:30 P.M.

HARVEY J. BLANCHETTE, Chairman
MERRILL B. WALKER, Clerk
JOHN A. TARVIS
E. MASON WELLING
RICHARD L. SEAMAN
BOARD OF APPEALS

March 5 and 12, 1969 Mattapoisett Presto Press

GROWING BOY NEEDS LARGER HORSE BUT FIRST MUST SELL APPALOOSA PONY AND TACK. WINNER AT AREA HORSE SHOWS IN '68. REASONABLY PRICED. CALL DAVID MACLEAN ABOUT GYPSY. 758-2957.

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ELECTION

The results of Mattapoisett's town election held on Monday for the five contested offices are as follows:

MODERATOR

Berthold Putman

Donald Fleming*

MATTAPOISETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Sandra Perkins*

Blanche Perry

BOARD OF HEALTH

Dennis Sylvia*

Dr. Harold Woodcock

WATER COMMISSIONER

John Paiva

Ralph Wordell*

TREE WARDEN

John Denham*

James Junier

* denotes the winners.

All other officers were elected uncontested.

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1 Pound - FROZEN

BEHOLD Furniture 12 oz. Can 89¢
POLISH

Dr. Melody BEEF 7 For Dog Food 99¢
15 oz. Cans

HOO-MEE CHOW MEIN MIX 29¢

NBC 1 Pound OREO COOKIES 45¢ Pkg

PARD CRUNCHERS 59¢
5 LB. BAG